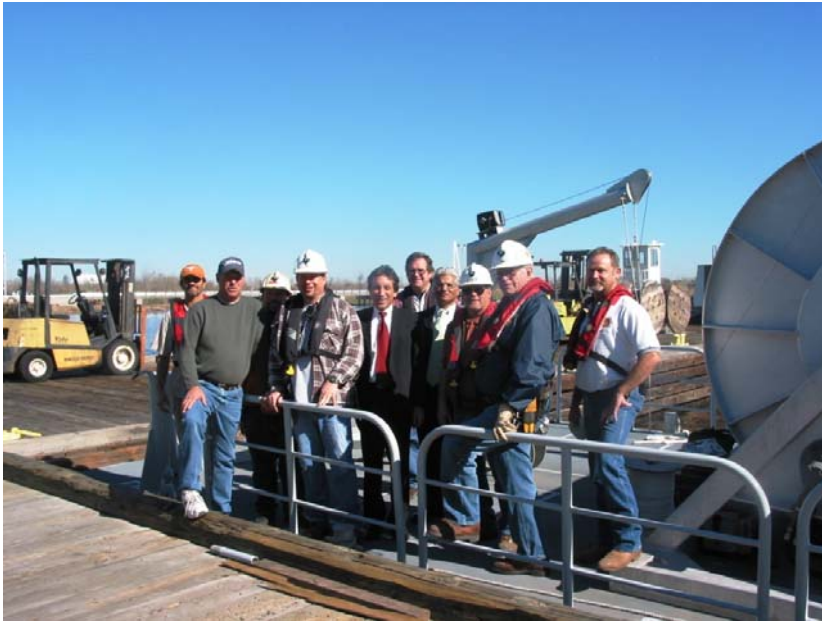


## Six Beaumont Reserve Fleet Employees Lauded for Their Dedication to Duty in Response to Hurricane Rita



*Acting Maritime Administrator John Jamian and Central Region Director Dee Varshney (with ties) with some of the Beaumont Reserve Fleet crew after the awards ceremony.*

At the special recognition ceremony held in Beaumont, Texas, on January 31, Acting Maritime Administrator John Jamian presented plaques to six Beaumont Reserve Fleet employees to recognize them for their outstanding efforts in response to the devastation of Hurricane Rita. They are:

**Mike Stasinos** – Mike had evacuated to Bald Knob, Arkansas, when he was asked to report to work. Mike made his way back to Beaumont with his family where he spent the night in the back of his pickup due to the damage sustained to his home. When Mike arrived at the Fleet, he worked continuously to get the facility in order.

**Roger Knod** – As he made his way to report for duty from De-Queen, Arkansas, Roger was nearly arrested by a Texas Department of Public Safety trooper when he tried to pass through a road block. Staff from MARAD Headquarters got the trooper to let Roger pass. Roger worked diligently to assist with standing up the Fleet's operations center.

**Charles Sandoz** – Charles struggled to return to the Fleet from Zavalla, Texas, and worked for the next few days in the heat: securing barges, boarding ships, scrounging material and needed equipment. Charles finally took some time to return to his home to retrieve food and water and found that someone had broken into his home. Yet, Charles had the resolve to return to the Fleet to continue working with his co-workers to re-establish the Fleet operation.

**Madeline Bailey** – Madeline rode out the storm at her home in Bridge City, Texas, and was one of the first to return to the Fleet. She assisted with assessing damage to the Fleet, assembled the crew, took up administrative responsibilities by answering phone calls and coordinating with Central Region and Headquarters personnel who were working diligently to acquire funding and other support functions critical to standing up the operation.

**Lawrence Wolford** – "Bubba" was in Warren, Texas, when he snapped into action to return to the Fleet he loves so much. He assessed the damage in the Fleet, assembled the crew and answered many phone calls from MARAD officials, Army Corps of Engineers, and Moran Towing Company. Bubba spent the next few days in constant motion working to retrieve lash barges from the waterway, coordinating with Central Region and Headquarters representatives who were on site working diligently to acquire funding and establishing lines of communication. Bubba's wife Kathy helped with phone calls and maintaining administrative order.

**Scott Harper** – Scott went to extraordinary lengths to return to the Fleet immediately following the hurricane from his home in Village Mills, Texas. Scott worked diligently to assist with retrieving lash barges, while his fiancée Kelly assisted the safety officer with answering the phone and developing a newsletter for the employees covering ongoing community recovery information. Kelly was six months pregnant at the time, and we are pleased to announce Scott and Kelly had a healthy baby boy, Jarrick Harper.



*Scott, Kelly, and Jarrick Harper and Scott's mother at the awards ceremony.*